THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines has presently no plans to operate an additional morning flight from Ranchi to Delhi. This would depend on traffic potential and availability of aircraft.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce a direct flight from Ranchi to Mumbai.

Mortgaging of tractors for taking tractor loan

†*291. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the farmers of Mahoba District of Uttar Pradesh have bought tractors by taking loans from banks for which they mortgaged their tractors and their land;

(b) the number of tractors for which farmers took loans from the year 2002, till date;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to inadequate rainfall these farmers could not deposit the instalments of tractors and now their land is being auctioned and tractors of many farmers have been seized; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to save farmers from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Loans for 3195 tractors are outstanding in the books of all the Banks in Mahoba District in Uttar Pradesh, as on 31st October, 2006.

(c) and (d) Wherever farmers have not been able to repay the Bank's dues in the district, relief has been provided by way of restructuring and rescheduleement to enable them to pay their dues over a longer period of time. In cases of wilful default and when borrowers do not pay dues despite persuasion, follow-up and personal contracts, the banks are constrained to initiate recovery proceedings in accordance with their recovery policies. Such recovery policies permit taking possession of tractors.

Complaints of fraud in IFCI

†*292. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding fraud in Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.